

Customer No.: 64884

Docket No.:



-T1000-0001-P001

Listing and Amendments of Claims
Including Status Indicators

1. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A binding machine as defined in claim ~~12~~ 20 further comprising:

a further helical spring, said further helical spring being disposed between said first and second side members, said helical spring and said further helical spring being wound in opposite directions.

14. (Currently amended) A binding machine as defined in claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said helical spring includes a first end portion and a second end portion, said first end portion being substantially fixedly coupled to said first ~~hand~~ a handle portion and said second end portion being substantially fixedly coupled to said second handle portion.

15. (Currently amended) A binding machine as defined in claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said first, second, third and fourth side members include respective first, second, third and fourth through-holes, said first, second, third and fourth through-holes being disposed coaxially with respect to one another about a longitudinal axis of a shaft, said shaft being adapted to effect said pivotal coupling of said second handle portion to said first handle portion.

16. (Previously presented) A binding machine as defined in claim 15 wherein a coil of said helical spring is disposed coaxially about said shaft.

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17. (Previously presented) A binding machine as defined in claim 16 wherein a flexure of said helical spring is adapted to exert a substantially negligible torsional force on said shaft.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A binding machine as defined in claim ~~18~~ 20 wherein said inner cross member includes a bore, said bore being disposed substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said inner cross member, said first end being disposed within said bore.

20. (Currently amended) A binding machine comprising:

_____ a body portion;

_____ a ratchet device coupled to said body portion;

_____ a first handle portion including first and second side members, said first and second side members being disposed in substantially parallel spaced relation with respect to one another, said first handle portion being coupled to said ratchet device for rotational activation of said ratchet device;

_____ a second handle portion including third and fourth side members, said third and fourth side members being disposed in substantially parallel spaced relation with respect to one another, said second handle portion being pivotally coupled to said first handle portion at respective mutually proximate ends thereof;

_____ a helical spring, said helical spring being disposed between said first and second side members, said helical spring being adapted to provide a monotonically increasing force in opposition to a pivotal displacement of said first handle portion with respect to said second handle portion;

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an inner cross member, said inner cross member having a first end coupled to said first side member and a second end coupled to said second side member, said helical spring having a first end coupled to said inner cross member; and

~~A binding machine as defined in claim 18 further comprising~~

an outer cross member, said outer cross member having a third end coupled to said third side member and a fourth end coupled to said fourth side member, said helical spring having a second end coupled to said outer cross member.

21. (Previously presented) A binding machine as defined in claim 20 wherein said outer cross member includes circumferential groove in a surface thereof, and wherein said second end of said helical spring includes a hooked portion, said hooked portion being disposed within said circumferential groove.

22. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 20 wherein said first handle portion, said second handle portion and said helical spring define a torque indicator, said torque indicator being adapted to indicate a torque related to said rotational activation of said ratchet device.

26. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 25 wherein a magnitude of said torque corresponds to a deflection of said helical spring.

27. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 26 wherein said deflection of said helical spring comprises an angular deflection of said helical spring.

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28. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 26 wherein said deflection of said helical spring corresponds to a pivotal motion of said first handle portion with respect to said second handle portion.

29. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 26 further comprising a reel, said reel being coupled to said ratchet device; and

a band, said band being coupled to said reel, wherein said magnitude of said torque is related to a tension of said band.

30. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 20 wherein said first handle portion is pivotally coupled to said second handle portion about a pin roll.

31. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 30 wherein said helical spring has a longitudinal axis disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said pin roll, said helical spring having an internal circumference, said pin roll being disposed within said internal circumference of said helical spring.

32. (New) A binding machine as defined in claim 20 further comprising a pawl, said pawl being coupled to said body portion, said pawl being adapted to control a motion of said ratchet device.